

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following subtitle before paragraph [0001]:

“TECHNICAL FIELD OF INVENTION”.

Please insert the following subtitle before paragraph [0003]:

“BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART”.

Please replace paragraph [0005], with the following rewritten version:

“BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION”

[0005] ~~This is where the~~The present invention provides~~comes in. Its object is to improve the a~~
method ~~according to U.S. Patent No. 6,035,717 A so that the~~of determining sound velocity C_b
in the base material ~~is determined~~ with greater accuracy ~~and so as to permit determining the~~
thickness of a coating applied to said base material with greater accuracy as well and to allow
using a probe the precursor distance of which is sufficiently thick.

Please replace paragraph [0006], with the following rewritten version:

[0006] ~~In view of the features mentioned herein above, which are incorporated herein, this object~~
~~is solved by measuring~~The present invention measures the shortest sound travel time T_{tot} and
by determining the sound velocity C_b in the base material via that path that delivers, as a
function of the sound velocity, the shortest total travel time T_{tot} between transmit crystal and
receive crystal.

Please insert the following subtitle before paragraph [0010]:

“BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS”.

Please insert the following subtitle before paragraph [0015]:

“DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION”.